

REMARKS**I. Status of the Claims**

Claims 7-8 are the only claim currently pending in the application. Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter with regard to claims 7 and 8.

By this Amendment, claims 1-6 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and claim 7 has been amended. No new matter has been introduced by this Amendment. Thus, entry and consideration of this Amendment are respectfully requested.

II. Response to Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103:

Claims 1 and 3 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Grim (U.S. Patent No. 4,092,544, hereafter Grim). Claims 2 and 4-6 have also been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Grim, and further in view of McEvoy et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,844,961, hereafter McEvoy). Claims 1-6 have been canceled rendering the rejections moot.

III. Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner indicated in the Office Action that claims 7 and 8 would be allowable if rewritten to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Accordingly, claim 7 has been amended in accordance with the Examiner's suggestions. Claims 7 and 8 are now believed to be allowable.

CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims and allowance of this application.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-5206.

In the event that an extension of time is required, or which may be required in addition to that requested in a petition for an extension of time, the Commissioner is requested to grant a petition for that extension of time which is required to make this response timely and is hereby authorized to charge any fee for such an extension of time or credit any overpayment for an extension of time to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 1232-5206.

Respectfully submitted,
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